

I am very worried about media consolidation and have been for some time. I simply have not had the time or inclination to make my position known prior to now. But Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election brought this issue screaming to the top of my to do list.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. The free marketplace of ideas that our founding fathers envisioned cannot operate properly if all of the media outlets are owned by a few companies. Media consolidation eliminates the incentive to actually invest the time and money necessary to investigate and report substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.